

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-16 will be pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 7 and 14 are allowable but objected to as depending from rejected base claims. Claims 7 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form, and Applicants believe claims 7 and 14 are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by newly cited U.S. Patent No. 4,836,527 to Wong. Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's position and respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

In order to anticipate a claim, a reference must disclose every limitation in the claim. In this case, Wong does not disclose every limitation of independent claims 1, 8 and 15, and therefore it cannot anticipate these claims or the corresponding dependent claims. More specifically, Wong fails to disclose a transfer roller installed perpendicular to a direction of the paper transfer route, and an idle roller installed above the duplex transfer roller at a predetermined inclination angle *with respect to the duplex transfer roller*. Rather, Wong discloses a transfer roller and idle roller that rotate *together*, but which always remain oriented in the same direction relative to one another.

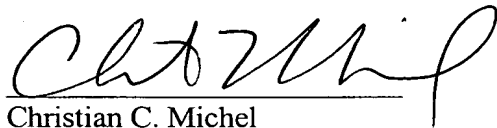
Furthermore, since the structure of Wong has a pivot axis 30 far from both rollers, it would not be obvious to provide an idle roller that rotates relative to the

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transfer roller, given the structure disclosed in Wong. Rather, rotating only idle roller 19 with the structure of Wong would destroy the nip function of rollers 18 and 19 since idle roller 19 would no longer be located on top of driven roller 18. Accordingly, since Wong fails to teach or render obvious all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 8 and 15, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Furthermore, since dependent claims 2-6, 9-13 and 16 dependent claims independent claims 1, 8 and 15, they are allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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